

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 44 are pending in the application, no claims are amended or added and no claims are cancelled.

A description of FIG. 12A is added, which FIGURE is discussed at page 25, lines 5 et sq.

The description of "FIG. 19A" is deleted from the Brief Description of the Drawings as a FIG. 19A was not used. A reference to a FIG. 19A is deleted from page 32, line 11.

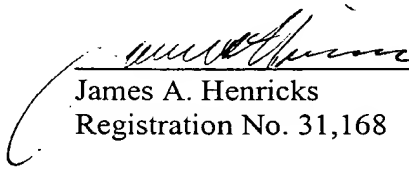
A reference to FIG. 13 at page 32, line 10, is changed to FIG. 19. A "two level linked list 236" is shown in FIG. 19.

No new matter is added.

Please consider the specification and the rest of the application in view of the foregoing amendments. Early notice of allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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James A. Henricks
Registration No. 31,168

HENRICKS, SLAVIN & HOLMES LLP

840 Apollo Street, Suite 200
El Segundo, CA 90245-4737
310-563-1456
310-563-1460 (fax)
jhenricks@hsh-iplaw.com (Email)

VERSION WITH MARKINS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 18:

[FIG. 19A is a schematic representation of a pixel tag convention for labeling pixels.]

In the specification, please replace the paragraph beginning at page 32, line 5, as follows:

Preferably, the system keeps track of pixels belonging to a Blob and sub-Blob in order to perform a joint operation. Since there may be a large number of pixels belonging to a Blob and this type of operation may be done many times during a Blob's lifetime, it is preferred to avoid reassignment to every pixel of the Blobs involved. Towards this objective, a two-level linked list 236 can be used, as shown in [FIG. 13] FIG. 19A. Every pixel will be assigned a pointer tag pSB, which will be an address to a SubBlob data structure [(as depicted in FIG. 19A)]. For a new incoming pixel with label x , comparisons with its neighbors (as illustrated in FIG. 17) will be performed. If one of its neighbors possesses the same label x , the address tag of the neighbor will be copied to the pixel. Otherwise, a new data item of SubBlob will be created and its address assigned to the pixel. In both cases, the SubBlob associated with the incoming pixel will be updated, which will in turn update its top-level Blob. Furthermore, the pixel clique will be examined to see if a joint operation is desirable. The joint operation with the data structure consists of traversal of links and pointer operations without the need of reassignment of all the pixels involved. Possible pseudo-code 238 for the joint operation is sketched in FIG. 20.